

A SEASON OF GROWTH

“Fruitful Living”

John 15:1-17 - Pastor Mike Medeiros

Lessons from the Vineyard

Context of the passage:

The Metaphor of God’s Vineyard

When we remain [abide] in Christ...

1.

2.

3.

4.

Take Home Truth

_____ in Christ _____

Today’s Core Practice: Giving Away My Life:

*“I give away my life to fulfill God’s Purposes.”
(from Romans 12:1, Matthew 28:19-20)*

Today’s Action:

1. Memorize John 15:16
2. Complete today’s Deeper Connection Study



Deeper Connection Study

Jesus spent significant time during and after the Passover meal discussing essential aspects of God's kingdom agenda with his disciples. Jesus expresses the Father's expectations and his words are critical for his empowered followers to practice.

Today's Core Practice discussed: Giving Away My Life.

Read John 15:1-17

1. What does Jesus mean when he speaks about bearing fruit (vv. 1-5, 8, 16)? How are the terms, "remain/abide," "love," and "bearing fruit" related? In what way is there a partnership between Christians and Jesus?
2. How and why are Christians expected to bear fruit (cf. Eph. 2:10)?
3. What is the "fruit that will last" (v. 16)? How is Jesus referring to longevity and impact? How have you seen this?
4. How are you available and listening to God, being ready to live a life of love and service? In what practical ways can you love one another? How might this be stretching you outside your comfort zone?
5. What link is there between obedience and prayer (vv. 7, 16)? How does a deeper connection to Christ provide believers with the assurance of answered prayer?
6. How are you bearing fruit? What evidence is there that others are impacted by your life? How can you be more intentional about influencing others for God's kingdom?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for his incredible love! Pray for great growth in your life and ask the Lord to be glorified in all you do. Ask God to empower you to bear fruit that will last. Pray for a deepening love for others.

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December 30, 2018

It is an annual tradition during this season for many people to look back on the year and evaluate growth. Some will look at the markings near their kitchen door to see the increased height of their kids while others might check the growth of their financial portfolio. As we close the chapter of another year, we tend to review the highlights and low points of the year before looking forward to the new year. It's really a mixed bag of good and bad, yet it forces us to have a bigger perspective concerning all that has happened. We all want to see growth - we just don't always like how it occurs! Rather than merely reviewing this past year, we can look back and find that God has been active although we may not have perceived it. This can be a tricky endeavor, especially if it has been a season of difficult trials.

So how do we move forward and look at the new year with anticipation as a season of growth? Jesus' words in John 15:1-17 provide encouragement (and challenge) to us today. On the most difficult night of his life, Jesus emphasizes what results when his disciples are vitally connected to him. It is all about bearing fruit for God's kingdom and glorifying God in all we do.

